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A NEW BINARY STAR.

The bright star 46 *Tauri* (R. A. $4^h 8^m 10^s$, Decl. $+7^\circ 28'$, 5.3 magnitude) was found to be an unusually close double star when examined with the 36-inch telescope on November 18, 1908. The mean of two nights' measures is:—

1908.90 $315^\circ.4$ $0''.14$, 5.7–6.2 magnitudes.

On the first night the telescope was west of pier, on the second night east, and the two angle measures agree within $0''.3$, the distance measure on each night being $0''.14$. As the star is assigned the proper motion of $-0''.0020$ and $+0''.023$ in R. A. and Decl. respectively, or $0''.038$ in the direction $307^\circ.7$, it is obvious that this is a physical system; otherwise it would have been discovered long ago.

Another pair, equally close but fainter, discovered on the same night, is A. G. Berlin B 455 (R. A. $1^h 24^m 13^s$, Decl. $+22^\circ 19'$, magnitude 6.5). The chances are hundreds to one that it also is a binary system, though the star catalogues do not assign it any proper motion. Measures on two nights give:—

1908.90 $126^\circ.2$ $0''.14$, 6.7–7.2 magnitudes.

The two angle measures, made on opposite sides of the meridian, agree within $0''.9$, and the distances within $0''.01$.

November, 1908.

R. G. AITKEN.

THE CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OBSERVING STATION IN THE
SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE.

Director LEWIS BOSS, of the Dudley Observatory, Albany, and Astronomer TUCKER, of the Lick Observatory, sailed from New York last August to Argentina to establish the observing station referred to in the title. The instrumental equipment is to consist chiefly of the Dudley Observatory meridian circle, and the purpose is to observe the accurate positions of all bright stars down to the seventh magnitude, in order to supplement Professor BOSS's exactly similar work at Albany, thus making his programme cover the entire sky. The observations to be secured will be utilized in combination and comparison with all similar observations of the same stars made in earlier